

CARVED BENCH ENDS.

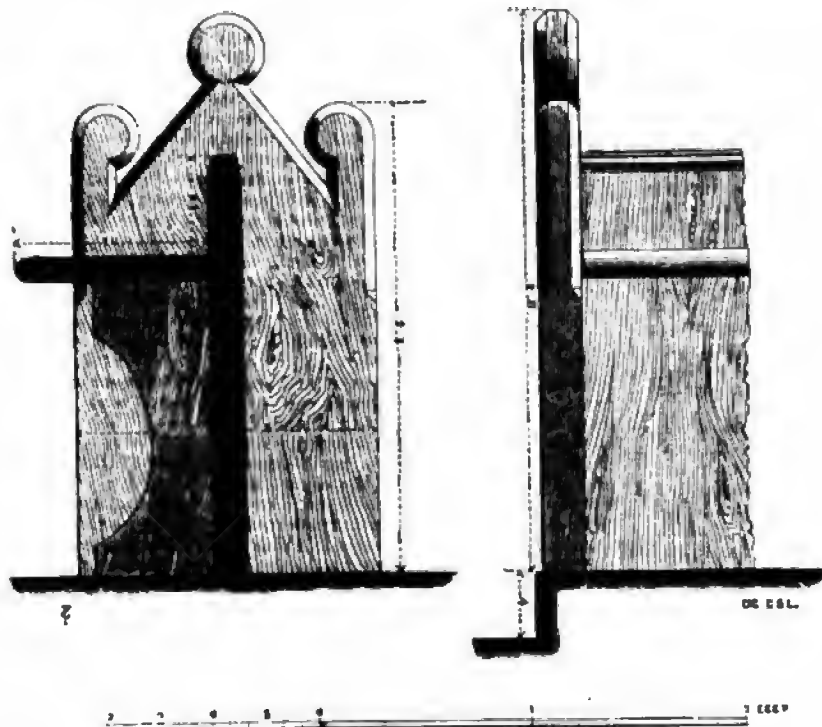


Fig. 1.

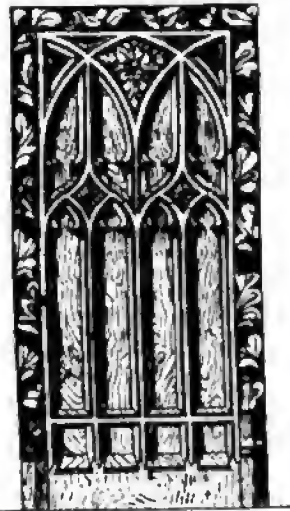


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

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FIG. 1 is a good example of plain bench ends at Warndon Church, Worcestershire.

FIG. 2 is a paneled end from Tavistock Church; and FIG. 3, another example from the same neighbourhood.

THE IRON TRADE.—Tantalus's cup was surely made of iron. The "poor little" prospect of a returning flow of prosperity lately entertained for the thousandth time within the last few years, has again disappeared, and seems to be now as far off as ever it was. In place of the anticipated stir in the forthcoming spring trade, "an unexpected sluggishness has supervened." But not only is there no prospect of a rise in the price of the raw material, —in various branches of the manufacture connected with our home consumption there are also reports of a downward tendency.

MR. ALISON'S VIEWS ON MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND IN GLASGOW.

LAST week the Scottish Institute held a meeting in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow, to hear an address from Mr. Sheriff Alison, who expatiated eloquently and impressively on the importance of the art, and the value of its monuments. In concluding, the speaker expressed his opinions as to modern architecture; and, as we have not space for the whole of the address, we will confine ourselves to that part of it. As an illustration, he said, that mere beauty of detail without generality of effect will not succeed in creating beauty in architecture, I appeal to the entire structure of the New Houses of Parliament at London. If we look at them in detail, it is impossible to imagine more exquisite beauty of detail than is to be found there; but when we go to a dis-

tance, we can never compare them with one of our old English cathedrals; and what is the reason?—the artist has attended only to speciality, and not to generality, of effect. There is another illustration—Donaldson's Hospital, Edinburgh, erected by my esteemed friend Mr. Playfair, second to none of the architects of his day. But although Donaldson's Hospital is a most beautiful edifice, no person who has seen it but must have lamented that, notwithstanding the elaborate details—as is felt when looking at the new Houses of Parliament—there is a want of projections, and a consequent want of light and shade to give effect to the edifice. There is plenty of speciality of effect, but there is a want of generality of effect. If any of you go along the Dean-bridge which goes to Queensferry, you will obtain a fine view of the Hospital. At the same time there is no structure which modern art has erected so honourable to the art.